

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTRE 00993 131948Z

63

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6386

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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FOR KRUSE FROM HARPER

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, SCUL, CA, UR

SUBJ: MAYOR'S REQUEST FOR ASTRONAUT VISIT

REF: KRUSE-HARPER TELECON SAME SUBJECT

1. MAYOR DRAPEAU YESTERDAY ASKED MY ASSISTANCE IN GETTING U.S. ASTRONAUT(S) TO JOIN WITH USSR COSMONAUT(S) IN CEREMONY AT MAN AND HIS WORLD AT PRECISE MOMENT OF SPACE LINK-UP. SAID HE KNEW DEPT HAD ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION RE CADIEUX'S REQUEST AND SORRY NOT TO HAVE GOT BACK TO ME SOONER. SAID HE HAD "CHECKED WITH OTTAWA AND IT WAS ALL RIGHT" (NO DETAILS) AND HE "HAD IMPRESSION SOVIETS WERE FAVORABLE TO IDEA."

2. "IMPRESSION" PROBABLY ACCURATE AS SOV CONGEN HAS EXPRESSED REAL ENTHUSIASM FOR IDEA TO ME AND HAS SAID THAT THE PEOPLE HE CONTACTED IN MOSCOW WERE "FAVORABLY INCLINED." HE ADDED THAT THESE WERE SPACE OFFICIALS, NOT FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

3. I TOLD MAYOR I WOULD PASS ON HIS REQUEST, ADDING THAT I HAD HEARD INFORMALLY THAT ASTRONAUTS/COSMONAUTS WOULD BE HERE IN AUGUST DURING ABA CONVENTION AT WHICH TIME SOME OFFICIAL SPACE

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PAGE 02 MONTRE 00993 131948Z

MEETING AND/OR ACCORD WILL TAKE PLACE. I NOTED THAT IT POSSIBLE

TWO VISITS SO CLOSE TOGETHER WOULD VITIATE IMPACT OF EACH AND/OR MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR EITHER OF THE GOVERNMENTS TO ARRANGE. CORDIAL BUT NOT ENCOURAGING, IN OTHER WORDS. WITH USUAL STYLE, MAYOR IMMEDIATELY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT "SECOND VISIT", FOR WHICH HE WOULD ARRANGE SETTING AT PLACE DES NATIONS AND "COULD GUARANTEE 30,000 AUDIENCE, APPROPRIATE TV COVERAGE" ETC. MEANWHILE, WHAT MORE MARVELOUS THAN ASTRONAUTS/COSMONAUTS MEETING ON GROUND A MHW AT PRECISE MOMENT THEY ARE MEETING IN SPACE.

4. WOULD NOTE THAT LACK OF U.S. PARTICIPATION IN M&HW FOR PAST SEVERAL YEARS (NO MATTER HOW WELL-REASONED) HAS RANKLED LOCAL OFFICIALDOM, ESPECIALLY MAYOR AS IT HIS BABY, AND THAT CONTRIBUTION TOWARD LATTER'S PROPOSED SPECTACULAR THIS YEAR COULD DO MUCH OFFSET THIS NAGGING IRRITANT. IN THIS CONNECTION, MEMCON OF APRIL 30, 1974, COPY TO BROWN, RE BICENTENNIAL PROJECT, MENTIONED IN FINAL PARAGRAPH THAT THEME OF 1975 M&HW WAS TO BE "A SALUTE TO THE U.S. BICENTENNIAL." THIS WAS CHANGED TO "PEACE AND FRATERNITY" WHEN WE DECLINED PARTICIPATE, FACT WHICH DREW COMMENTS OF SEVERAL CONSULAR CORPS COLLEAGUES TO ME AS WELL AS THOSE OF M&HW OFFICIALS. COPY MY MORE EXPLANATORY LETTER TO ARBA ON SUBJECT BEING POUCHEO WITH COPY OF ABA LETTER RE ASTRONAUT VISIT DURING CONVENTION.

5. BETTY DILLON, USREP ICAO, SAYS SHE KNOWS OF NO "SPACE MEETING" OR ANYTHING TO BE SIGNED RE SPACE COOPERATION HERE IN AUGUST BUT POINTS OUT THAT IF TRUE IT COULD BE IDEAL OCCASION TO GET FAVORABLE PUBLICITY FOR NEW ICAO HEADQUARTERS. (THEY MOVING IN IN JULY.) THIS MIGHT UPSET MAYOR, OF COURSE.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFO ON POSSIBLE SPACE-AGREEMENT SIGNING OR OTHER "OFFICIAL ACT" HERE DURING ABA CONVENTION AND A REPLY FOR MAYOR AND SOV COLLEAGUE. LATTER OBVIOUSLY FEELS WE HAVE TO BE "FAVORABLY INCLINED" TOO BEFORE HE PUSHES FURTHER.
HARPER

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